

a report on the operations of the State Justice Institute.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2048

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. REPORT BY ATTORNEY GENERAL ON STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE.**

Section 213 of the State Justice Institute Act of 1984 (42 U.S.C. 10712) is amended by striking "On October 1, 1987" and inserting "Not later than October 1, 2002".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2048, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 2048 will require the Attorney General to submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on the Judiciary regarding the effectiveness of the State Justice Institute. This report would be due by October 1, 2002.

Congress established SJI as a private, nonprofit corporation in 1984. Its stated purpose is to further the development and adoption of improved judicial administration in State courts. SJI is to accomplish this goal by providing funds to State courts and other national organizations or nonprofit organizations which support the State courts. SJI also fosters coordination and cooperation with the Federal judiciary in areas of mutual concern.

Since becoming operational in 1987, the institute has awarded more than \$125 million in grants to support over 1,000 projects; another \$40 million in matching requirements has been generated from other public and private funding sources. As noted, H.R. 2048 would require the Attorney General to study the operations of the institute and release a report on its effectiveness. After 14 years and \$165 million in grants, it is now more appropriate to take a closer look at the efficiency and effectiveness of this institute and the project it supports.

Madam Speaker, this concludes my description of the bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time I may consume.

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2048. This bill was

marked up and favorably reported by voice vote by the Committee on the Judiciary on July 24. It is wholly non-controversial.

It requires the Attorney General in consultation with the State Justice Institute to submit a report to the House and Senate Committees on the Judiciary regarding the effectiveness of the institute. The report will be due no later than October 1, 2002.

The SJI is a useful project. Congress created it in 1984 to provide funds to improve the quality of justice in State courts. Congress also directed the SJI to facilitate enhanced coordination between State and Federal courts and develop solutions to common problems faced by all courts. It was last reauthorized in 1992. That expired in fiscal year 1996.

While the Committee on Appropriations has continued to appropriate approximately \$7 million annually for the State Justice Institute, it has not been formally reauthorized since 1996 by the authorizing committee of the Committee on the Judiciary.

The ultimate purpose of the SJI report mandated by this legislation is to aid Congress in reauthorizing the SJI. With the information from this report, Congress can ensure that SJI reauthorization is accomplished with all due diligence.

The Attorney General did issue a study of its effectiveness in 1987, but this report provides little information, as the SJI did not become operational until 1987. So we need a new report to help inform future legislation to reauthorize it.

H.R. 2048 is a good bill, and I ask my colleagues to support it.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE).

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN) pretty well laid this out.

I would just indicate that by noting that the 1984 legislation which created the institute required the Attorney General to submit a report governing the effectiveness of the State Justice Institute's operations by October 1, 1987, to the House and Senate Committees on the Judiciary. Since SJI did not become operational until fiscal year 1987, the report submitted by former Attorney General Meese is of limited value in assessing the operations of the institute.

H.R. 2048 simply changes the due date for a report that will be identical in scope to the 1987 study. Unlike the previous effort, however, the study that will emanate from H.R. 2048 will be based on at least 14 years' worth of operations at the institute. As a result,

Congress should have the first real comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of SJI by October 1, 2002.

Madam Speaker, this is a non-controversial bill, as has been indicated. It promotes good government. While I am impressed with SJI operations to date, all Federal entities should be accountable to the taxpayers. I therefore urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2048.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO**

Mr. HYDE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 233) recognizing the important relationship between the United States and Mexico.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 233

Whereas the United States and Mexico share a special bilateral friendship which is matched by few other countries in the world;

Whereas the United States and Mexico are partners joined by geography as well as by a multitude of government-to-government and private relationships which are of critical importance to both countries;

Whereas the United States and Mexico share concerns on a wide range of issues, including trade, immigration, the environment, economic development, and regional security and stability;

Whereas Vicente Fox Quesada of the Alliance for Change (consisting of the National Action Party and the Mexican Green Party) was sworn in as President of the United Mexican States on December 1, 2000, the first opposition candidate to be elected president in Mexico in seven decades;

Whereas the United States, as Mexico's neighbor, ally, and partner in the hemisphere, has a strong interest in President Fox's success in promoting prosperity and democracy in his country and the region during his term of office; and

Whereas President Vicente Fox is making a state visit to Washington, D.C. on September 5-7, 2001; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) welcomes the state visit by the President of the United Mexican States, Vicente Fox Quesada; and

(2) declares that, in keeping with the just interests of the United States, the special nature of the relationship between the United States and Mexico should be further cultivated to the mutual benefit of both countries.